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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/902,112	07/11/2001	Shigeyuki Kuroda	KOM-136/INO	8215

7590

01/13/2005

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EXAMINER

STEVENS, THOMAS H

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2123

DATE MAILED: 01/13/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Applicati n No.

09/902,112

Applicant(s)

KURODA, SHIGEYUKI

Examin r

Thomas H. Stevens

Art Unit

2123

-- Th MAILING DATE of this communication app ars on th cov r sh t with th correspond nce addr ss --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 July 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 11 July 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 10/20/04.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-5 were examined.

Priority

2. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file. However, priority is denied since the paper lists a different serial number (09/605,526), relative to this application.

Information Disclosure Statement

3. The information disclosure statement filed 10/20/04 fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2), which requires a legible copy of each U.S. and foreign patent; each publication or that portion which caused it to be listed; and all other information or that portion which caused it to be listed. It has been placed in the application file, but the information referred to therein has not been considered. The documents are as follows:
JP 11-353384; JP 2000-037684.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

5. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim contains subject matter, which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in

the relevant art that the inventor, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. No criteria or explanation of "abnormal" in the context of the scope.

6. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter, which the applicant regards as his invention.

7. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Clarification is requested as to whom is "looking them up"

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

8. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

9. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Takeyama et al. (U.S. Patent 5,852,560 (1998)). Takeyama et al., teaches an environment load equation storage section that stores environmental load equations modeled on a stage at which a product is produced and used and a s stage of waste treatment and recycling, etc. (abstract).

Claim 1. An environmental indicator calculation method (abstract) comprising the steps of: (1) storing a data base and a data table in a memory, the data base having a

collection of data (columns 22, lines 66-67 and 1-6, respectively) on the part lists and specifications of products (column 2, lines 51-55) in conjunction with product identification codes (column 16, lines 19-21), the data table containing processing yields and environmental indicator factors (column 6, lines 30-37) in conjunction with material codes (column 16, lines 19-21) which respectively indicate the material of each part constituting a product; (2) extracting part numbers by looking them up in the data base with a product identification code which has been input (column 15, lines 14-20 with figure 17); (3) calculating a processing yield and environmental indicator factor for every material code by referring the data table (column 15, lines 30-42), the material codes relating to the parts corresponding to the part numbers (column 15, lines 14-20 with figure 17) which have been extracted; and (4) calculating the discharged amount of efflux associated with an environmental indicator for every material code based (column 16, lines 19-21) on its corresponding processing yield (column 15, lines 53-67 with column 16, lines 35-54) and environmental indicator factor which have been obtained, while calculating the total amount of efflux discharged from the whole product (column 5, lines 49-58).

Claim 2. An environmental indicator calculation apparatus comprising (column 5, lines 42-59): (1) a data base having a collection of data on the part lists (column 15, lines 14-20 with figure 17) and specifications of products in conjunction with product identification codes (column 15, lines 14-20 with figure 17; column 7, lines 41-63); (2) a data table containing processing yields and environmental indicator factors in

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conjunction with material codes which respectively indicate the material of each path constituting a product (column 7, lines 5-39 with figure 4); and (3) computing means for (column 7, lines 5-39 with figure 4) (i) extracting part numbers and the weight of a part associated with every part number by looking them up in the data base with a product identification code which has been input, (column 15, lines 14-20 with figure 17; column 8, lines 26-31, figure 7) (ii) calculating a processing yield and environmental indicator factor for every material code by referring the data table, the material codes relating to the parts corresponding to the part numbers which have been extracted, and (iii) calculating the discharged amount of efflux associated with an environmental indicator for every material code (column 7, lines 5-39 with figure 4) based on its corresponding processing yield and environmental indicator factor which have been obtained, while calculating the total amount of efflux discharged from the whole product (column 5, lines 49-58).

Claim 3. An environmental indicator calculation apparatus according to claim 2, (column 5, lines 42-59; column 15, lines 14-20 with figure 17; column 7, lines 41-63; column 7, lines 5-39 with figure 4; column 5, lines 49-58) wherein the discharged amount calculated by the computing means includes the discharged amount of efflux during preparation of the materials of the parts; the discharged amount (column 7, lines 41-63) of efflux during processing and assembling of the parts (column 7, lines 5-39 with figure 4 (far right column)); the discharged amount of efflux during delivery and use of the product (column 7, lines 5-39 with figure 4 (far right column)); and the discharged

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amount of efflux during disassembling and disposal of the product (column 7, lines 5-39 with figure 4 (far right column)).

Claim 4. An environmental indicator calculation apparatus according to claim 2 or 3, (column 5, lines 42-59; column 15, lines 14-20 with figure 17; column 7, lines 41-63; column 7, lines 5-39 with figure 4; column 5, lines 49-58) further including an abnormal code conversion table for converting a material code incorrectly given into a normal material code, and after conversion of an abnormal material code into a normal material code by referring this abnormal code conversion table, said calculation of the processing yield and the environmental indicator factor is executed.

Claim 5. A computer-readable (column 24, lines 12-15), recording medium for storing a program for executing an environmental indicator calculation process by a computer (column 5, lines 42-59; lines 41-63; column 7, lines 5-39 with figure 4; column 5, lines 49-58), the process comprising the steps of: (1) extracting part numbers by looking them up in a data base with a product identification code which has been input, the data base having a collection of data on the part lists (column 15, lines 14-20 with figure 17; column 7) and specifications of products in conjunction with product identification codes; (2) calculating a processing yield and environmental indicator factor for every material code by referring a data table (column 7, lines 5-39 with figure 4 (far right column)), the material codes relating to the parts corresponding to the part numbers

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which have been extracted, the data table containing processing yields and environmental indicator factors in conjunction with material codes which respectively indicate the material of each part constituting a product (column 7, lines 5-39 with figure 4 (far right column); and (3) calculating the discharged amount of efflux associated with an environmental indicator for every material code based on its corresponding processing yield and environmental indicator factor which have been obtained, while calculating the total amount of efflux discharged from the whole product (column 5, lines 49-58).

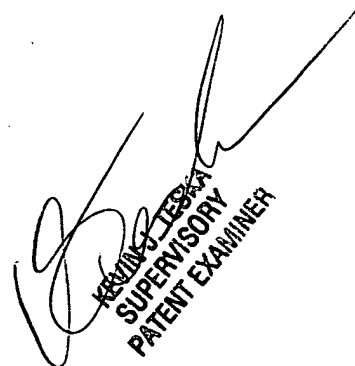
Correspondence Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mr. Tom Stevens whose telephone number is 571-272-3715, Monday-Friday (8:00 am- 4:30 pm) or contact Supervisor Mr. Kevin Teska at (571) 272-3716. Fax number is 571-273-3715

Any inquires of general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose phone number is (571) 272-1400

December 29, 2004

THS


KEVIN TESKA
SUPERVISORY
PATENT EXAMINER